

Message

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Sent: 5/22/2018 12:41:25 PM
To: Dunn, Alexandra [dunn.alexandra@epa.gov]; Szaro, Deb [Szaro.Deb@epa.gov]; Gutro, Doug [Gutro.Doug@epa.gov]; R1 OPA [R1_OPA@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: ATSDR toxicological profile for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

Good morning!

Below, is a message Tarah Sommers (ATSDR) shared with me regarding an article that seemed to first appear in Politico and then was picked up by other news organizations about ATSDR, EPA, the White House and PFAS. Below is a response from ATSDR. Tarah shared this since questions might come up and this provides some awareness.

By Congressional mandate, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) produces toxicological profiles for chemical substances found at National Priorities List (NPL) sites. 4 PFAS substances are on that list.

Toxicological profiles include an examination, summary, and interpretation of available toxicological information and epidemiologic evaluations of a hazardous substance. Profiles go to scientific peer review before they are released for public comment. If there are significant revisions as a result of the public comments, the profiles are again peer reviewed before releasing as a final.

Toxicological Profiles are developed in two stages:

- (DRAFTS): ATSDR first produces a draft profile. ATSDR then announces in the Federal Register the release of these draft profiles for a public comment period, usually 30-90 days.
- (FINALS): After the comment period, ATSDR considers all comments, revises the documents, and then finalizes the profile.

Creating the PFAS Toxicological Profile has been a collaborative process. As part of the peer review process, our scientific peers at EPA and other federal agencies provide expertise on all toxicological profiles, including this profile. The body of knowledge about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances is emerging quickly. As a result, this document has been through the normal review process, leading to a number of revisions, resulting in multiple rounds of peer review and public comment.

ATSDR is preparing to release the draft PFAS Toxicological Profile again for public comment and will include provisional minimal risk levels (MRLs) for four substances: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS). MRLs are intended to serve as a screening tool to help public health professionals decide where to look more closely at potential health effects from the environment. We are working with the EPA, DoD and other federal partners to provide consistent and proper interpretation of the role of MRLs, and how they should be used and interpreted.

An MRL is not a regulatory standard. It is an estimate of daily human exposure to a dose of a chemical that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of adverse noncancerous effects over a specified duration of a exposure. The primary users of toxicological profiles are the informed public and health professionals, including health assessors, at the national, regional and/or state level. ATSDR is a non-regulatory federal public health agency, therefore states can set their own standards for hazardous chemicals.

We do not have a release date identified for the next public comment period, but additional comments received on this draft will be incorporated into the final PFAS Toxicological Profile.

Let me know if you have questions,
Tarah

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